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THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**MAINE**

Maine College of Engineering  
and Computing

UMAINE | MAINE COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING AND COMPUTING NEWSLETTER | NOVEMBER, 2023



(L to R) Mohamad Musavi, John Volin, Mauricio Pereira da Cunha, Heather Pierce, Sarah Glatter, Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh, Bruce Van Note, Christopher Dufour, Justin Lapp, Liza White, Giovanna Guidoboni

## Maine College of Engineering and Computing holds 2023 Bryand Annual Awards Banquet

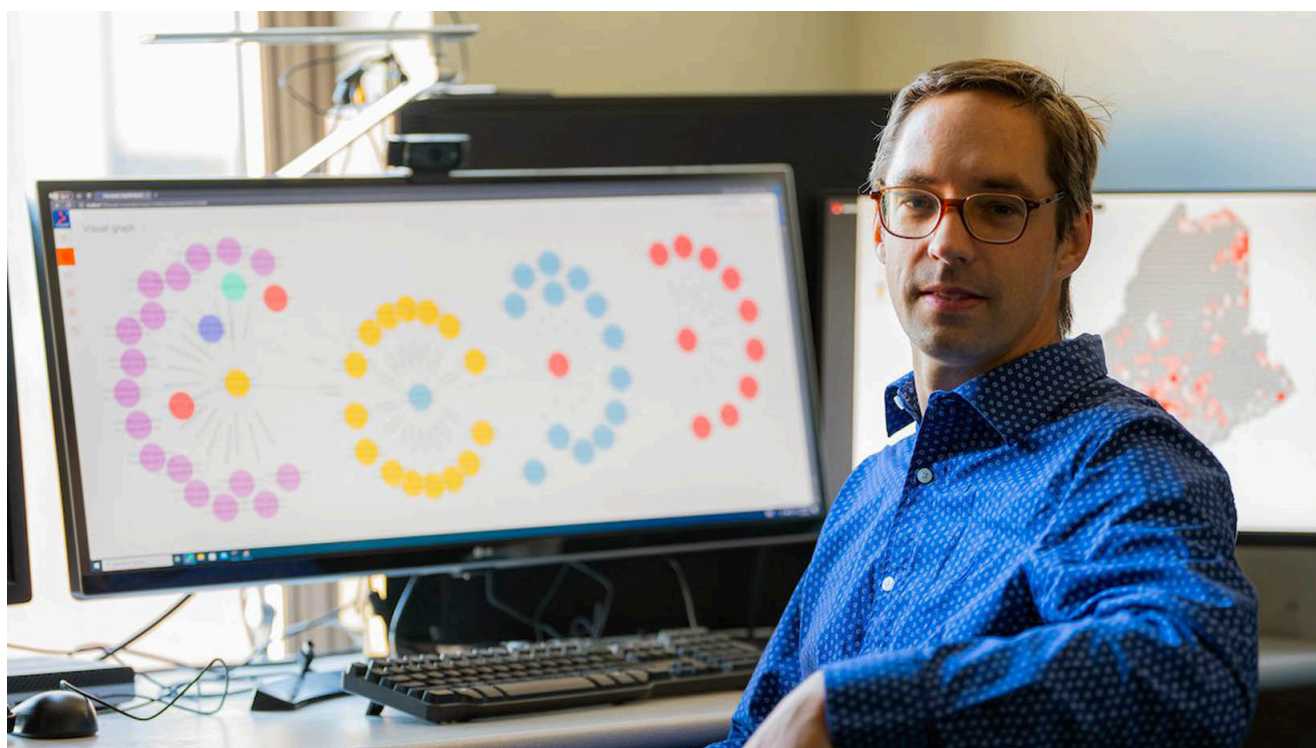
Maine Department of Transportation Commissioner, **Bruce Van Note**, is among the recipients of the Maine College of Engineering and Computing's Edward Bryand annual awards honoring alumni, faculty, staff and students.

Van Note was named the Edward T. Bryand Distinguished Engineer. Electrical and Computer Engineering professor, **Mauricio Pereira da Cunha**, received the Ashley Campbell Award. **Christopher Dufour** of Computer Science and **Justin Lapp** of Mechanical Engineering both received the Early Career Teaching Award.

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ard for fostering a vibrant and intellectually stimulating learning environment for her students.

**Salimeh Yasaei Sekeh**, Assistant Professor in Computer Science received the Early Career Research Award for her work on neural networks. **Heather Pierce** received the Leila Lowell Award for her outstanding service to the Electrical and Computing Engineering department.

[Read Full Story](#)

## UMaine leading development of new state-of-the-art tool for tracking PFAS nationwide

The **emergence of toxic** per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances, or **PFAS**, in water supplies, farms and the environment is a growing problem nationwide. Despite many researchers and government agencies investigating these “**forever chemicals**,” there is no tool for combining all of their findings and providing a more comprehensive view of the problem.

University of Maine computer scientist **Torsten Hahmann** is spearheading the development of an interactive digital tool that will allow users to explore and analyze data on sites and sources of **PFAS contamination** throughout the U.S. This software will help investigators and the general public track **existing PFAS hotspots**, which in turn can help them identify where to test for new ones and better understand how they travel through the natural and manmade environment.

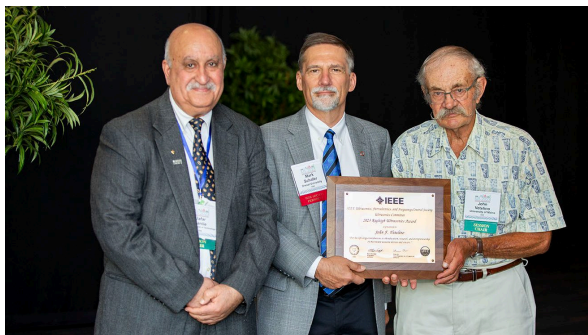
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## Vincent Weaver ‘demakes’ video games to teach about computer systems

Vincent Weaver, a University of Maine associate professor of electrical and computer engineering, has a quirky hobby: **“de-making” video games**, or reformatting classic games onto even simpler systems than the ones they were launched on as a **programming challenge**. Weaver has not only amassed an online fan base for his demakes — he has also found ways to incorporate them into his **curriculum** for UMaine students.

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**Prof. John Vetelino** received **IEEE 2023 Rayleigh Award** for his life-long contributions to the education, research and entrepreneurship on microwave acoustic devices and sensors. The IEEE UFFC Rayleigh Ultrasonics Award represents the highest honor for achievement within the IEEE Ultrasonics, Ferroelectrics, and Frequency Control (UFFC) Society in the field of Ultrasonics.

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## Team Places 2nd at UNB Coaster Car Derby

The **MCEC ASME** team competed in the 47th annual Coaster Car Derby at the University of **New Brunswick**. The coaster cars are designed to **maximize the effects of gravity** to go as quickly as possible downhill. [Full Story](#)



## MCEC welcomes a Student Success and Advising Center.

A one-stop shop for **students to receive assistance** with not only their academic needs, but also assistance in navigating UMaine resources. The center has helped students connect with Knack **tutoring services**, the **counseling center**, the **career center**, and various other departments. The center will be led by **Student Success Coordinator, Arieana Mangra**.

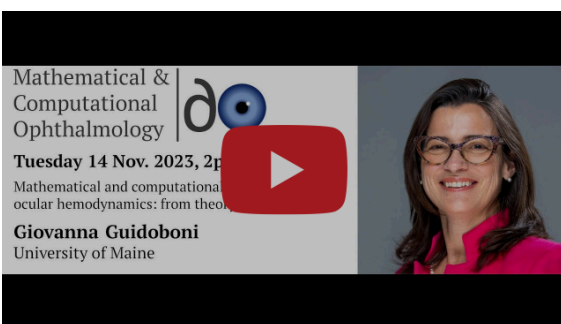


## Construction Engineering Technology students at the Maine Forest and Logging Museum

At the **Maine Forest and Logging Museum**, MCEC **Construction Engineering Technology** students and faculty completed installing high bay windows in Machinery Hall, greatly brightening up this space. Another team completed a beautiful **new cedar shake roof**. Another project underway was to build a new road for the **Lombard Log Hauler**. Emeritus professor, **Herb Crosby**, shares his videos of the projects with us.

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the 9th of October, in **Zagreb, Croatia**, during CAETS2023. The prize is awarded to the most **outstanding audiovisual communication** of excellence and innovation in technological sciences or engineering. Dr. Howell's winning entry was titled "[Deciphering Nature's Secrets: Bio-Inspired Solutions for Antibiotic Resistance.](#)"

[Learn more](#)

MCEC Dean, **Giovanna Guidoboni**, was invited to give a talk on the seminar series **Mathematical and Computational Ophthalmology**. Dean Guidoboni's talk was about her research on **Mathematical and Computational Modeling of Ocular Hemodynamics**.

[Learn more](#)

**New Media** has partnered with the **Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning** and other UMaine units on **Learning With AI**, an initiative focused on helping teachers and students make the transition to a post-ChatGPT world. Its website is an online toolkit of over 300 crowdsourced strategies, resources, and videos for generative AI that educators can use in a classroom right now. Visitors can filter resources by keywords or follow curated pathways like "write with AI" or "prioritize humanity."

[Learn More](#)

## Quick Bytes

**Jon Ippolito** is quoted in Wired's 14 November story "**TikTok Is the New TV**" about whether TikTok can help movie producers reach audiences faster with

**Meredith Kirkmann** and six students traveled to **Liverpool, England** to compete in the Associated Schools of Construction International Student

**Thomas Schwartz** gave an invited presentation entitled "**The Advantage of Oxidized Feedstocks from Biomass and CO2**" at a workshop on non-fossil



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from TU **Dublin, Ireland** for the multiday competition.

Brown University.

**Manuel Woersdoerfer's** paper 'AI Ethics and Ordoliberalism 2.0: Towards a 'Digital Bill of Rights'' has been accepted for publication in the Springer journal '**AI and Ethics**.'

[Read paper](#)

MEE Senior **Rollan Lemieux** Received a **CUGR Academic Year Undergraduate Research Fellowship** to do work in the lab of **Dr. Justin Lapp**

**Alexander Jones** (Spatial Computing) received a **NSF Graduate Research Fellowship** for Culturally Responsive Robotics Education For Rural Communities. Advised by **Dr. Greg Nelson** (Assistant Professor, Computer Science).

**Mohamed Zaid**, graduate student in the GSBSE program, receives a BioME Travel/Conference Award to give an oral presentation entitled "**Analysis of the Contribution of Cardiovascular Components to the Ballistocardiogram Signal Using a Mathematical Model**" at the Computing in Cardiology Conference 2023.

[Read Abstract](#)

A. Gallant and Zambrano-Cruzatty were awarded a **three-year NSF grant** to study the longevity and effectiveness of **microbial-induced desaturation** to mitigate liquefaction triggering during earthquakes. Zambrano-Cruzatty will develop **advanced numerical modeling techniques** to understand gas persistence in a time scale of a century.

Associate Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering, **Jean Macrae** was featured on the **Maine Policy Matters** podcast. This episode is about **PFAS** and their effects on the environment, Maine's efforts to combat it, the public's understanding of the issue, and how PFAS affects agricultural systems and interstate commerce.

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